also construct some new hotels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Hotel Corporation of India has plans to renovate its two Hotel Units in Mumbai and one in Delhi in the current financial year.

Outstanding Dues of MTNL, Delhi

6242. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news item captioned "Satish Sharma, Bina Ramani among glitzy lot let of the book DELHITIES owe MTNL Rs 450 crore" appearing in "The Economic Times" New Delhi dated February 20,1997;

(b) If so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reasons for not recovering the dues so far by MTNL, Delhi; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to recover this huge amount?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total Telephone outstanding for DOT as on 31.1.97 was Rs. 1582 crores. Rs. 424 crores are outstanding from subscribers of MTNL, Delhi. These outstandings do not pertain to the current year alone but have accumulated over a period of time.

In cases where the cheques have bounced, cash/DD payments are insisted upon. Further, additional security is also taken.

The present position with reference to specific cases cited in the news item is given below:-

(i) Telephone No. 608647 of Mr. Bhupender Kumar. The subscriber had gone to court and the court has dismissed his petition on 2.4.97. Steps are being taken to recover the outstanding dues of Rs. 13.38 lakhs.

(ii) Telephone No. 6862466 of Captain Satish Sharma. The telephone stands disconnected and recovery process is being constantly monitored.

(iii) Telephone No. 6862931 of Mrs. Bina Ramani. The subscriber has since cleared the dues by cash payment.

(iv) M/s Apollo Tyres subscriber Shri O.S. Kanwar. The supplementary bills issued have been cleared.

(v) M/s Usha India Ltd. Part payment has been made by the party and the case is subjudice.

(c) The issue of bills and recovery thereof is a continuous process and there are well laid procedures for recovery of outstanding Telephone bills. Efforts are made to settle the billing disputes/Court cases quickly. For other cases recovery is pursued by correspondence/personal visits and legal action.

(d) Integration of various computerised systems like billing, Fault Repair Service (FRS) and commercial in one package as Customer Service Management System (CSMS) is being done during 1997-98. This will enable early issue of bills and On Line updation for all bill payments, facilitating quicker disconnection of telephones of defaulting subscribers, thereby improving the collection efficiency.

Amount Spend on Grand Badminton Championship

6243. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent in organising the Grand Badminton Championship at Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi from February 12, 1997 to February 16, 1997;

(b) the total number of Air India official involved in organising the championship and the extent of loss of manpower to the company;

(c) the amount spent by Air India Management in organising the sports tournaments in the last two years including Golf Championship at Chandigarh and Badminton Championship at Delhi;

(d) the total reserves of funds with Air India management, at present; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to stop unnecessary expenditure by Air India Management?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Air India incurred cash expenditure of Rs. 26.4 lakhs as the lead sponsor of World Grand Prix Badminton Championship.

(b) Only those officials who are functionally responsible for sports activities were involved or organising the event.

(c) Details are given below:-

	Budget (Amount in Crores)	Amount spent
1995-96	1.15	1.15
1996-97	1.15	0.61 (upto 31.1.97)

(d) The total reserves as on 31.3.96 were Rs. 1056 crores.

(e) Expenditure for promotion of sports is in consonance with the board policy guidelines of the Government/Company.